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David Neal Cox executed

Parchman, Sunflower County, MS (Nov 17) – Convicted murderer David Neal Cox was executed tonight at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Cox was pronounced dead at 6:12 PM Central Standard Time by Sunflower Coroner Heather Burton. Cox died after a mixture of three chemicals -midazolam, vecuronium bromide, and potassium chloride, as identified in court papers- were introduced into his left arm. The lethal injection is prescribed for in Mississippi law for capital punishment and were introduced into Cox’s system without incident.

“Cox was pronounced dead at 6:12,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Corrections Burl Cain at the following press conference. “He died peacefully and without incident. I’ve never seen an execution go smoother.”

Cox was given a chance to give final words. He said, “I want to tell my children that I love them very, very much, and that I was a good man at one time, and only read the King James [version] of the Bible, and I appreciate the Commissioner for being so kind to me. That’s all I got to say.”

After Cox’s last words, witnesses to the execution sat in silence for almost fifteen minutes more before Burton pronounced Cox dead. During the administering of the lethal injection, Cox did not flinch or move.

Cox, 51, asked justices of the Mississippi Supreme Court to carry out his death sentence after releasing his lawyers and instructing them to file no more appeals. Cox visited with his spiritual advisors and one family member earlier in the afternoon as he awaited his execution in Parchman’s Unit 17, one of the prison’s oldest buildings which does not house inmates but still houses the execution chamber.



MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain (center front) at final press briefing following the execution of David Neal. Left: Dep. Commissioner for Institutions Jeworski Mallett, MDOC General Counsel Leonard Vincent, and Executive Deputy Commissioner Karei McDonald.